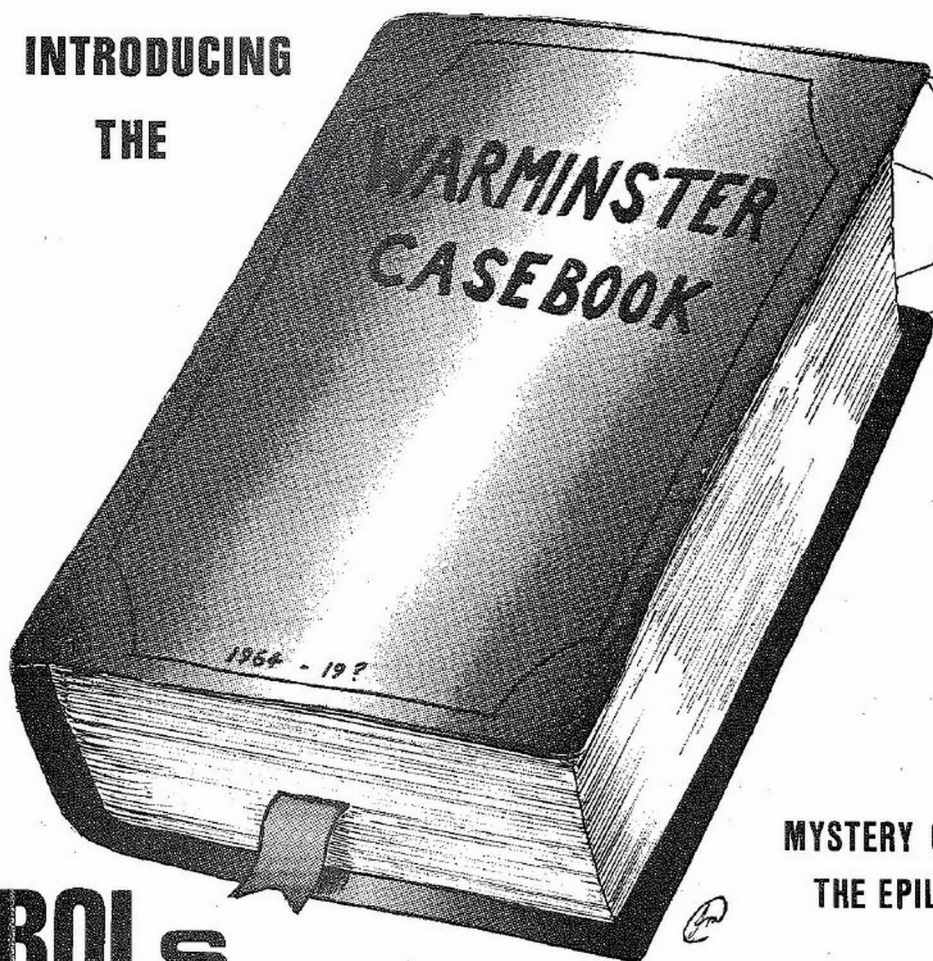


THE **PROBE REPORT**

JOURNAL OF UFO INVESTIGATION

INTRODUCING

THE



BOLs

BALLS OF LIGHT — THE RESPONSE COMES IN

**MYSTERY CIRCLES -
THE EPILOGUE**

THE PROBE REPORT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF PROBE UFO INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION

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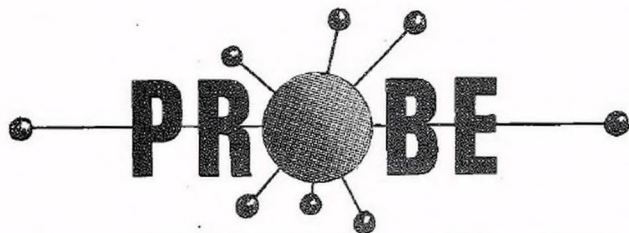
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UFO INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION

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EDITORIAL CRISIS

What do you do when all of a sudden you find yourself faced with a crisis which affects the very existence of all you have worked for over the years? This organisation has just unfortunately experienced such a predicament that was serious enough to start the motions for closing down this journal, which, as you can see, went no further than that. That is due to the kindness of our close friends and colleagues, SCUFORI (Swindon Centre for UFO Research and Investigation) who came to the rescue of this journal.

We have always had a nice little arrangement with a local printer which allowed us to provide a journal of the highest quality printwise, for a very reasonable subscription rate. In that way, in keeping our printing costs down, we could pass on that benefit to all the readers by only asking (until July 1st this year) £2.00 per annum. This never brought in any profits - in fact never really covered the inherent costs - but kept us more or less on an even keel together with the input of cash from the team members. Sadly, through unforeseen circumstances, the arrangement underwent a few upheavals resulting in the printing cost rocketing up by a staggering 54% to an all-time high. There were not sufficient funds in the kitty to pay for this issue's printing - and that's where SCUFORI stepped in.

To enable continued publication of THE PROBE REPORT, a further subscription increase has had to be imposed, taking it from £2.50 up to £3.40 per annum, representing a 36% increase (still less than that imposed by the printer). Unfortunately, it is the faithful band of regular subscribers who have to suffer the brunt of this increase. Of course if we distributed every copy that was printed, we could have avoided the price rise due to additional income, but such is the way with the UFO-market. It is so fickle, and the turnover of subscribers is phenomenal. In the space of two and a half years, we have gone through a number of subscribers equal to four times the current subscription level. So your editor is asking all current subscribers to stick with us, at least for the time-being, until we can establish our footings again. It would also be a nice bonus if you readers out there could encourage friends and relatives to subscribe, therefore helping to restrain further increases in price. It may sound like pleading, but this journal came very close to not seeing print (although I dare say it would take an awful lot more to make us totally pack up). Anyway, please bear with us, because there are some fine items waiting in the wings right this minute...

Last issue contained the mammoth BOLs article which dominated the journal. Yet, reader response was excellent, bringing in more letters than any other article before it. So we are going to devote almost the entire January 1983 issue over to an account of how a local UFO investigation group was threatened by strange electronic voices over the telephone and by written coded messages. They were told to stop their work or they would be killed as a consequence. The group resolved the problem in a most fascinating way, with the whole episode involving intrigue, fear, deception and detection. But what has this to do with serious ufology?... A significant chapter of ufological history is devoted to the MIBs, the mysterious Men In Black, who were responsible for the closures of several UFO organisations; the shutting-up of witnesses and for leaving a trail of fear and mystique in their wake. However, in this case (which has all the features of a typical MIB tale) the group solved their problem - whereas literature shows that many researchers and witnesses dropped the subject like a hot coal, never knowing who or what were the sources of the threats; and their findings could bring a lot to bear on this area of UFO-lore. On top of that, this current issue opens the first part of the WARMINSTER CASEBOOK, a series that will alternate with CASE CLOSED on a sporadic basis. Please stick with us - there's lots worth waiting for.



UFO INTERNATIONAL have again available their catalogue entitled UNITED KINGDOM SIGHTING REPORT CATALOGUE 1977-1978-1979, which is exactly what it is. The catalogue lists all sightings that were known to the group via other UFO organisations and publications, (although they emphasised that newspaper reports were ignored because of unreliability), and these entries are classified by reference (eg case ref.), date, time, location, colour, shape, duration and source - thus allowing further information to be obtained if and when needed. Roughly 700 sightings are individually listed, and to aid the researcher, statistical tables are provided which categorise the sightings over areas of the UK, reports per month, on what particular days of the week they occur, shape, colour, duration and time. Months of work was utilised on producing this catalogue, and although it doesn't list every sighting that was reported over those three years, it does give a statistical sample that could reflect overall trends. The price for both catalogue and tables combined is £4 including all postage costs, and is well worth it for the 55 page A4 size document.

Last issue featured a book review of UFOs-AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS by Cynthia Hind, although no price details were known. Cynthia has written giving the following information: The price is £2.95 plus postage, and two addresses given are Middle East Books, 16 Brockenhurst Gardens, London NW7 2JX., and John Neild Associates, Old Bakery Cottage, 45 Freehold Street, Lower Heyford, Oxon OX5 3NS. Hope that puts the record straight.

The British UFO Society (BUFOS) have just launched their first journal - called BUFOS JOURNAL strange as it may seem. Seriously though, this journal is mainly intended for its members and is not designed for sale or exchange, although the editor does point out that this can be arranged. A4 size printed, 10 pages plus cover, the JOURNAL features current case reports plus a news section, emphasising its non-commercial purpose and its commitment to BUFOS members. Address is 85 Chelford Crescent, High Acres, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8PA for enquiries.

BUFORA and MUFORA (Manchester) have arranged a seminar on October 9th, commencing 1 pm at the University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology (UMIST) in central Manchester. The theme is to be THE UFO INVESTIGATOR AND THE WITNESS and will include lectures, discussions and various practical exercises. Admission £2, or £1.50 to BUFORA or ASSAP members. Contact Peter Warrington, 5 North Avenue, Burnage, Manchester. M19 2WR. Telephone 061-225 3404.

UFO/IFO: A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION, the investigatory supplement written by members of PROBE, SCUFORI and several distinguished contributors, is still available from SCUFORI at a cost of only 80p plus 20p postage and packing. UFO/IFO is the culmination of a project undertaken by PROBE and SCUFORI in which many aspects of investigation of UFO sightings are examined along with ways of identifying the sources of the reports. It basically shows how to turn the majority of UFOs into IFOs. Write to 29 Lethbridge Rd, Swindon, Wiltshire. (SCUFORI's address).

Finally, long-time readers may have noticed the transition from the traditional 'glossy' interior paper to an ordinary bond paper over the last two issues. This is all to do with the printer problems, but preparations are under way to rectify the situation. The editor and the rest of the PROBE team hope that this has in no way diminished the quality of this journal as a whole. Efforts are being maintained to bring the best in reproductive quality in the meantime.

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SIGNALS

Letters to the editor

Dear Ian,

I found the correspondence in the REPORT's SIGNALS section concerning OSEAP's Resources Centre most interesting. The big problem in an enterprise such as this is not so much setting it up, as working it successfully, is the efficient dissemination of the information contained therein, made even more difficult by high postal charges. Such matters as continuity of ownership of donated material etc can be resolved by reference to established practice in other fields where a similar situation occurs. This sort of problem, although somewhat mundane, is still very real and must be dealt with properly to ensure that the venture is set up on proper lines, which will gain the confidence of those it is hoped to interest in the project. When entering into a venture such as this, comment and criticism are to be expected. Indeed, if there were none, it would probably mean a lack of interest generally. Providing the comments are of a constructive nature, (and I find it hard to believe that a responsible group would indulge in anything but that sort of criticism) then it is nothing but beneficial to discuss the matter in a constructive spirit. This, of course, brings me to the root of the issue, the prevalence of dogmatism in details. By this I mean the sort of attitude which says 'If you don't do as we do, then you are doing it wrong'. Note that I am not talking of principles, but relatively minor issues. It is an attitude which has been prevalent among UFO groups for many years, and has bedevilled co-operation. And it is about time that we made an effort to change things! Any responsible group can generally recognise another group of the same nature, and one would expect the result to be co-operation, not antagonism as sometimes is the case. What profit there is in climbing on one's high horse or other useless gymnastics when an adverse comment is made, I do not know. What I do know is that ufology suffers. May I make a plea - that groups look at one another in the light of the principles they endorse and the work that they do? And then, having decided that they are the sort of group we would wish to work with, leave our easily injured pride at home, and go out and meet them - and work with them. We may even find them ordinary human beings, much like ourselves!

All the best,

Pete Tate, UFO INTERNATIONAL, Kingswood, Bristol.

Dear Mr. Mrzyglod,

In Hilary Evans' penetrating article, "BOLs" (July 1982), he points out that ufologists traditionally ignore lights in the sky in favour of harder evidence such as UFO landings, cattle mutilations and abductees. Having had a great deal of firsthand experience with BOLs (balls of light), I agree with Evans that they are a very important facet of the UFO phenomena and should not be overlooked. In his article, he presents anecdotes that suggest a religious interpretation of BOLs. I have received reports that seem to substantiate this particular guess. Coincidentally, one of the books reviewed in the same issue of THE PROBE REPORT is THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM MYSTERY by David Hughes. In early 1973, when I initiated a scientific field study of UFO phenomena, my initial sightings were of balls of light that seemed to float silently across the sky. It occurred to me then that a similar ball of light would have been very effective in guiding or drawing three wise men to a destination. Although several authors advocate the religious interpretation of UFOs, I doubt that very many scientists or churchmen would accept such an explanation. But consider that I have been as close as 2,000 feet to an amber light travelling slowly along interstate I-55 in daylight at a height of about 1,500 feet. The light vanished! I have seen many other balls that were unattached to a material object, yet flew as if controlled. In my book PROJECT IDENTIFICATION: THE FIRST SCIENTIFIC FIELD STUDY OF UFO PHENOMENA (1981: Prentice-Hall, Inc.), I have attempted to explain the phenomenon as localized heating from in-phase, crossed radar or infrared laser beams, but such conventional explanations are unsatisfactory. To me, the BOLs were as enigmatic as the seven UFO vehicles I have observed. Unless the BOLs are man-made - they are not, in general, a known natural phenomenon such as earthquake lights - the religious interpretation is about as good as any. Clearly, this is not in conflict with Evans' suggestion that different reports of the phenomenon should be treated as if they relate to a single phenomenon.

Dr. Harley Rutledge, Chairman, Dept. of Physics, Southeast
Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Dear Ian,
About Hilary's piece... Obviously, proposing that some of the Balls of light sightings may refer to an intelligent life form is going to hit some people below the belt. It almost smacks of a resurrection of elemental beings, magic, paganism and so on. But, trying for a moment to step a little way back from our emotions, is Hilary's thesis any worse than a nuts and bolts solution involving remote-controlled sensor platforms (or whatever the current buzz-words may be)? At least, as a hypothesis, it gives us a little more to work on. Trying to capture an alien spy-plane may be a little hard for a bunch of amateurs, but trying to attract and study another lifeform may not be. So, before rejecting Hilary's case out of hand, how about a proposal: Study in great detail all (or a large proportion of) BOLs cases and extract as many common factors as possible. Having done this, try to reproduce the environment in which these reports are generated, as closely as possible - preferably with as much analysis equipment as possible on hand. Can we induce reports this way? If so, we are a step further forward than now; if not (after more than one try) we are certainly no further back. And, even if BOLs aren't alive, we could get some of the best photographs of ball lightning around. So, how about it world? With a bit of not very esoteric equipment (magnetometer and a few cameras loaded with Infrared and normal film with a few filters), perhaps we can make some progress. Let's face it, there has been comparatively little of that considering the expenditure of effort in the UFO field over the last ten years. But thank you Ian for a very enjoyable and thought-provoking magazine. I look forward to reading other peoples' views on Hilary's article. Regards,
Paul Wilson, Richmond, N. Yorks.

Dear Ian,
I read with interest the recent article by Hilary Evans in the last issue and would like to take this opportunity of making one or two comments. Firstly, I think it was a noble and brave effort on the part of Hilary to postulate such a controversial hypothesis, knowing that he may come in for a lot of criticism. I cannot criticise Hilary for the principle behind the ideas he puts forward, but would like to question one or two specific points he raised in "BOLs". With regard to section 3 on page 7, I cannot agree with Hilary that where no distinct UFO shape is reported it is because the UFO has no distinct shape. A lack of descriptive data concerning shape in a report is just as likely to be due to poor observing conditions obscuring the true shape. Nor can I agree with his comment that a spherical shape is so basic it is ignored by witness or investigator. A shape such as a sphere would be the first thing to be noticed by the witness if such a shape were actually observed. It can also be postulated with equal conviction that where a sphere is reported this is due to perceptual filling on the part of the witness in creating a simple shape where no recognisable one exists - which brings us back to square one and makes these particular comments of Hilary's a little meaningless. Hilary places a great deal of emphasis on the fact that balls of light appear to show intelligent behaviour. However, in the cases quoted (at least in the information provided) there often appear to be interpretations of the report other than that of intelligently controlled balls. After all, objects tend to react to each other without the intervention of intelligence. Clouds which cluster around high mountain peaks do so without the need for a great deal of brain power. Neither do magnets require intelligence to attract or repel each other. I am not saying that all of the cases quoted by Hilary can be explained in this way (although some undoubtedly can). I do suggest, however, that it may be premature to attribute "intelligence" to a phenomenon simply because no other explanation is currently available. Remember what happened when astronomers discovered quasars? I am also a little dubious as to the quality of some of the cases quoted. It has long been the contention of SCUFORI that the quality of most current UFO reports is at best inadequate and at worst downright abysmal. Quoting old cases, particularly 19th century cases, can only be of anecdotal value and they should not be used as a data base for such a hypothesis. I think that before research projects such as that undertaken by Hilary can be of real value, investigators must work harder to ensure that all reports made available for research are more reliable and accurate. It is only when reports of UFO sightings, or of any other anomaly, are consistently well done, that any reliable comparisons can be made.
Marty Moffatt, SCUFORI, Swindon.

Dear Sir,

Whether or not Hilary Evans is serious about BOLs (he is entitled to fly any sort of kite) matters less than whether or not he is being objective. He must have expected that I would disagree with his remarks on ball lightning (BL), and I must say that I think he has distorted the evidence. Firstly, this term 'fireball'. While it is often used to describe BL, since there is no evidence that BL consists of flames the term is avoided by scientists. However, astronomers properly use it to describe a large meteoroid which breaks up on entry to the atmosphere. It appears that Hilary has not been able to distinguish between these two entirely different mechanisms. The term is a scientific description, if restricted to astronomy, and of course it is also used to describe large explosions. Incidentally, the object of his case C12 must surely have been a fireball (or fireballs), which, if it (they) was (were) at a great height, could have appeared to have been over 'all five of the Great Lakes'. This would have allowed very many trajectories, not just one. I am not familiar with this incident, but you will have seen the film of a daylight fireball as it 'flew' over North America, into the atmosphere and out again into space. I doubt that BL has been 'warmly welcomed by UFO debunkers ...' Certainly Menzel thought that all UFOs are optical illusions and made very little of BL, and Klass has since repudiated the views he expressed in UFOs Identified. Debunkers tend to believe in neither UFOs nor BL. While some scientists question the existence of BL, they do not include those who have investigated it. Hilary knows very well that the informed scientific opinion is that BL is a real objective phenomenon whose nature is improperly understood. He should also know that it is thought to be as frequent as ground lightning strikes and that documentation on it is voluminous. As to whether or not BL can explain BOL reports, that depends on what is known of BL. Clearly it is a mistake to assume that BL cannot be responsible (on the grounds that the BOL behaviour is outside the parameters of BL) if the BOL is actually BL operating outside its conventional parameters! The customarily accepted parameters for BL could be wrong. For this reason I conclude that Dr. Rutledge has overlooked the possibility that the phenomenon he attempted to track in SE Missouri (Project Identification) was BL. It is evident from his book that he had a mental set disposing him to see the phenomenon as a vehicle occupied by intelligent beings. As a scientist, he should have asked himself whether or not he was dealing with a new (or an extension of an old) natural phenomenon. As for a 'reluctance to accept natural explanations for UFOs too readily' being healthy, I can only point out that while some have been too ready to accept natural explanations (when such explanations were inadequate), others have obstinately refused to accept such explanations because it did not suit them to do so. This obstinacy may also be generated by ignorance of the natural phenomena that can cause UFO reports and of Occam's Razor. It is Hilary's thesis that BOLs are intelligent entities because they display behaviour that appears to be intelligent. But because a witness believed that an object acted intelligently (whatever that means) does not mean that it was intelligent or guided by an intelligence. As Klass pointed out (UFOs Identified, Ch 13), random movements can easily be mistaken for guided movement if the observer is not aware of the forces responsible for the movement. In the case of BL the forces are likely to be electromagnetic and therefore both invisible and undetectable by the observer (without special apparatus). It is not impossible that BL reacts to the (small) personal EM field generated by the human body or to the change in electric potential as a person moves. Almost certainly BL will react to magnetic materials, metal objects (inc. vehicles), electric circuits and currents. In addition, it seems clear that some movements must, by coincidence, appear to the observer as a reaction to his own movements or thoughts. Hilary's arguments for intelligent control are special pleading in defence of what he admits is a far-fetched hypothesis. There is no unambiguous evidence that the UFO phenomenon is intelligently controlled. Certainly, the collection of anecdotal reports with which Hilary has padded his article are not necessarily reliable. Some are fireballs, some are of BL. Some appear to be hallucinations and many must surely be exaggerated. How many have been fully investigated and remain unexplained? It is surely naive to claim that Foo Fighters only appeared during the Second World War when the term was one used only by wartime aircrews. Since then the same phenomenon has been observed and called a UFO! Hilary makes too much of a mystery out of the readily explicable and disserves scientific ufology by confusing fact with fiction. Yours faithfully, Stuart Campbell, Edinburgh.

To the Editor,

The purpose of my piece on BOLs was to open up debate on the subject from as many different viewpoints as possible, for I am convinced that a multi-disciplinary approach is appropriate to this complex phenomenon - or group of phenomena. The amount of comment my 'kite-flying' has aroused testifies to a widespread feeling that BOLs do represent a fruitful field of study. As for myself, I do not claim to be putting forward any but the most tentative of hypotheses: what I want is for people more expert than me to come forward and give us of their expertise. But they must come with an open mind, prepared to see the phenomena for what they may be, rather than with preconceived notions that they must fall into existing categories. For if one thing stands out loud and clear from the existing literature, it is that current categories are inadequate to account for the phenomena as reported. Steuart Campbell, of course, would say that it is precisely those reports which are fallacious. I particularly welcome Steuart's response, for I know that he has given these phenomena particular attention. I have no wish to take issue with him on particular issues, for what is needed at this stage is a pooling of ideas rather than argument over specifics. He may be right in thinking that reports of intelligent BOL behaviour are mere illusion: I would only point out that it is asserted so frequently, and with such corroborative detail, that we really haven't the right to rule out intelligent control at this stage. Steuart's alternative explanation, in terms of BL response to personal EM fields, is an attractive one; but of course it would not easily account for such cases as my number 14, in which the BOL first approached the witness, then passed her and proceeded ahead of her. Steuart has every right to criticise my terminology, but then one of my purposes was to demonstrate how inadequate our terminology is. Even when some scientists agree on a specific usage, terms are unlikely to be given clear-cut definitions, as Barry's book on ball lightning makes abundantly clear. We will not be likely to get far if we try to explain the phenomena in terms of current categories, for no categories exist which can comprise many of the cases I quote. Steuart would perhaps answer that those cases are scientifically inadequate, but to a large extent they are the best basis we have. And the cases I quote are but a handful from thousands that have been and are being reported, and so great a cloud of witnesses deserve a considered hearing in their own right, let alone the possibility that their testimony can contribute so much to our own field of inquiry.

Yours,
Hilary Evans, London.

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MYSTERY CIRCLES

THE EPILOGUE

IAN MRZYGLOD

I don't know if it's a feeling of wanting to say, "I told you so", or that in writing this article something of importance will be achieved, but whatever the reason, it is unfortunate but some very old ground is going to have to be covered again.

During 1980 and 1981, in the summers of both those years, PROBE investigated the strange appearances of large flattened circles that were discovered in westcountry cornfields. At first, we were at a loss to find a rational and realistic explanation for their occurrence, but eventually help came from Dr. G.T. Meaden of the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation based in Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Dr. Meaden studied photographs supplied by ourselves, and together with this information, site measurements, general topographical details and prevailing weather conditions, arrived at the theory that whirlwinds were responsible for creating them. This explanation was treated with some scepticism, especially by members of the PROBE team who actually stood in the centres of these circles. It seemed inconceivable that mere weather could cause such precise and massive damage, and not affect the corn stalks standing only inches away from the perimeters of the circles. Yet, this theory at least had foundations whereas the hope that UFOs had been the culprits remained only as a hope. The pieces fitted, and the whirlwind explanation seemed most logical, and was perhaps the only real explanation that could be put forward without delving off into the realms of the ridiculous. So we printed the reports and articles as they materialised, and they attracted criticism which was helpful in the sense that it opened the topic further for debate. Many of the critics refused to accept the natural phenomenon theory and stuck by their beliefs that UFOs (and in this sense we are talking about flying saucers) had touched down in these fields, spinning in a clockwise direction and thus flattening the corn. In the case of the Winchester circles, some 'ufologists' even managed to find witnesses who saw silvery suited beings walking about various fields. Sadly, further information on these vital visions was never forthcoming, so we politely ignored those testimonies and stuck to the hard facts. They were basically that we had hard, physical traces plumb in the middle of cornfields with no tracks leading to or from them, and that in each case, the circles were in fields that were at the base of a hill. This detail became very important in preparing the theory, because it was this hill that was trapping winds and causing the fair-weather whirlwind to remain stationary for a very short time - yet long enough to flatten a circular area. (The circles themselves were never perfectly circular - usually about 90% - and it was always a feature that their centres - by that meaning the centre of the spiral - were never in the centres of the circles overall.)

Understandably, many people voiced the argument that if natural phenomena is creating these circles, why is nobody seeing this happen or producing photographs of such events? Fair questions, but it has to be stressed that we were discussing a phenomenon, and the very reason it is classified as a phenomenon is that it is a rare occurrence. Equally, no photographs exist (that have been accepted as anything other than fakes) that show a UFO hovering above a cornfield flattening the stalks.

So, with the situation at a stalemate, the last comment that was really made (ignoring the item that appeared in the March 1982 issue) was:

"The next obvious step to take, as we ourselves shall take, is to look out next August for further appearances of such circles."

That line was published in the December 1981 issue, just after the formation of circles found in Winchester were featured. Not forgetting that line, (in fact, quite sweating on it just in case things went wrong) periodical scans were made of various cornfields whilst driving through the countryside. Unfortunately, no circles were discovered by us. But... and now the pièce de résistance... The UNEXPLAINED office telephoned to say that one of their readers had spotted and photographed a strange circle of flattened corn and had written asking what might have caused it.

What's more, the circle was also found in Wiltshire, in a cornfield, and the date that he saw it was August 10th 1982. But the most interesting thing about this particular circle was its precise location. It was situated at the foot of Cley Hill, one of the most famous skywatching spots of all Wiltshire, yes... in Warminster.

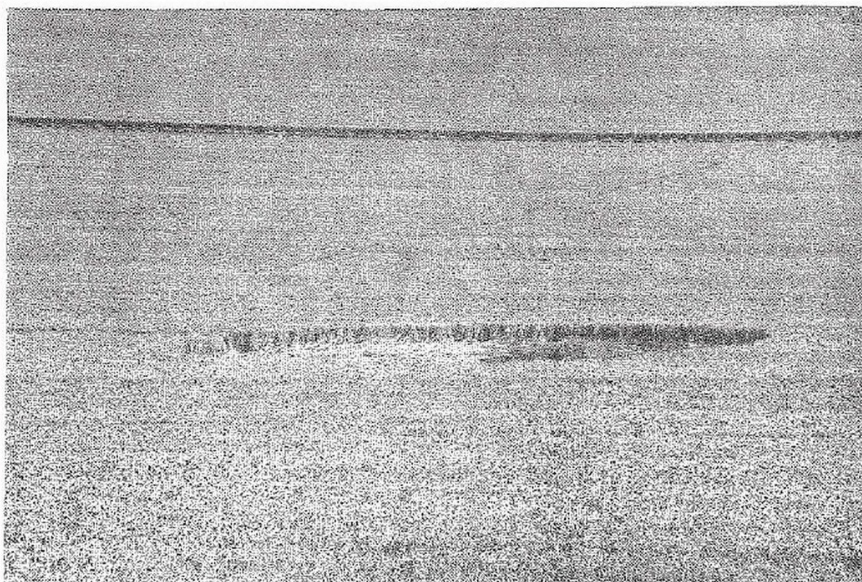


The 'mystery' circle, lower centre. Warminster is in the background.

I visited Cley Hill on Friday 27th August to try and photograph the circle for myself, and to determine its exact location with regard to Cley Hill. The circle was easily found and photographed, and was situated at the foot of Cley Hill, which was in accordance with all the other mystery circles. In an effort to obtain a better bird's-eye view of the circle, I climbed up the face of the hill and was pleasantly surprised to see the remains of an even larger circle in an adjacent field, although this one had been harvested. Nevertheless, because the corn becomes flattened when the circle is created, the harvesting machinery cannot cut these stalks and they remain easily visible against the background of harvested crop. The second circle was again at the foot of Cley Hill, and was in even more of a wind-trap, thus perhaps accounting for its larger diameter. This circle measured, based upon previous measurements, at least 60 feet across. The first one was smaller, probably around 50 feet. These measurements could not be verified in the short time allowed, as no farmers were nearby to obtain permission from for entry into the fields. The second circle, being situated in a more enclosed area, could possibly have been the result of a fair-weather whirlwind being retained in position for a slightly longer spell.

In concluding this article, I feel perhaps it is time to state that the 'mystery' circles that have been appearing in this area, are as a result of meteorological phenomena. Fair-weather whirlwinds, under normal conditions in open countryside, will travel across fields and cause messy areas of damage. In fact ordinary strong winds are enough to collapse long stalks of corn that are dry and brittle. Once bent over, they very often stay flattened. But the circles are all found at bases of hills where advancing wind can be trapped, and should a whirlwind form, it could very likely, when close to the hill, remain stationary for a very short period - perhaps only seconds.

Those seconds are long enough to flatten a large area, and the corn will remain in such a position indefinitely.



Closer view of the circle, displaying all the usual characteristics.

Thus the prediction (?) proved correct, and more mystery circles appeared during the July/August period of 1982. It is now time that the 'mystery' be dropped from their definition, as they are as seasonal as Christmas and as regular as clockwork. They are no more mysterious than other meteorological phenomena, and perhaps now they can be forgotten with regards to the UFO phenomenon. But, one thing that puzzles me over this recent episode, is the total lack of news excitement that swamped the previous ones. Not one local paper reported the appearance of the circles this time, and despite them being in the most famous UFO-town of all. Maybe at last an element of common sense has finally infiltrated that place.

As a postscript to this article, another visit was paid to Cley Hill on 8th September to obtain some more photographs, but sadly, nearly all traces of the circles has been erased due to stubble-burning in the fields. In adjacent fields were farmers harvesting the last of the crop, and when approached on the subject of the circles were in one mind as to the cause. They nominated whirlwinds purely because they had seen them on many occasions causing similar damage, in some cases ripping the corn out from the ground and carrying it hundreds of feet into the air, only to return several minutes later floating slowly down. They also informed the author that four smaller circles were seen dotted about the field we were standing in, and luckily the remains of one, measuring roughly 15 feet, were still visible. But this circle was not quite the same as the others - the corn had not been totally flattened, just angled over, giving the impression that a lesser force had been responsible. When looking closer at this circle, which incidentally was placed several hundred yards away from the base of Cley Hill and thus was not in a position to suffer the full effects of a stationary whirlwind, it was not really circular, but oval in shape. This indicated that the whirl was moving as it flattened the corn until it died seconds after its birth. The presence of this last 'circle' added to the theory by the very nature of its make-up and its location, that whirlwinds are varied in their ferocity and size depending on the weather conditions and the local topography. Good old Mother Nature never ceases to puzzle and amuse.

A LOOK AT ADAMSKI & KLARER

GEOFF BIRD

Two famous contactee cases have remained a puzzle to ufologists for many years, and it seems no-one is any nearer to understanding what really occurred on those fateful days. The George Adamski and Elizabeth Klarer cases are not the only ones which remain unsolved, needless to say, but Geoff Bird offers an analysis of these two which may cast a different light on them and help to open the means towards understanding them.

It is easy to dismiss certain alleged contactees as cranks or hoaxers and leave it at that. This is a well-known ufological syndrome which is in many cases perfectly justified, but sometimes even the stories told by cranks and hoaxers merit comparison and closer examination, for we investigators must not only take an interest in UFO reports, but in the witnesses as well. Leaving hoaxes to one side, cranks are many as all ufologists know. However, the word "crank" must not be used lightly, if only to keep on the right side of the law of libel. Once, when I was young I fell very ill, and was given a medicine which caused me to experience nightmares. One such nightmare was of a giant robot-like figure which caused me to wake up suddenly in great distress. Because that drug had induced my mind to 'see' that vision, that to me was reality until I awoke to normality. At that time, robots were very much the 'in thing', both in science fiction and in science speculation, and had captured my attention. Thus, my subconscious spewed forth an archetypal robot. Perhaps if I had been a very religious youngster I might have 'seen' the devil, cloven hoof and all; or if the medication had had a different effect, the Virgin Mary, Jesus Christ or one of the saints. However, the scientific aspect loomed larger in my psyche at the time.

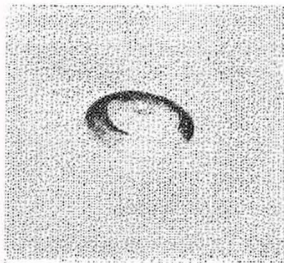
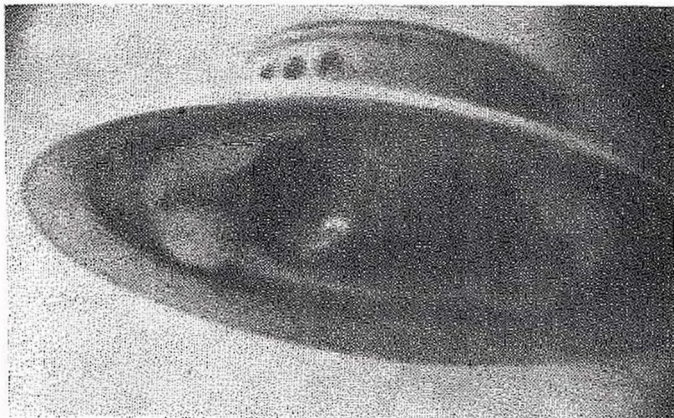
When I first set about comparing the cases of Elizabeth Klarer and George Adamski I was very aware that the two contactees had grown up in very different environments and I picked a male contactee and a female contactee in order to provide further interesting comparisons. Elizabeth Klarer grew up in South Africa, and the influence of that country upon her general philosophy and world view is very apparent from her writings in her book, "BEYOND THE LIGHT BARRIER" (Howard Timmins, S.A. 1980). Indeed, in the book she acknowledges the scientific advisor to the Prime Minister and the South African Security Police, which seems rather strange for a UFO contactee. Klarer's list of acknowledgements further includes a former major in British Intelligence, an Air Chief Marshall and an international lawyer. George Adamski on the other hand merely dedicates "FLYING SAUCERS FAREWELL" (Abelard-Schuman, New York, 1961) to "a better understanding of our place in the Universe".

Throughout Klarer's book one is constantly aware of a very high emotional tone which starts in Chapter 1 with a lurid description of a UFO supposedly deflecting a meteor about to strike Earth. We are made aware of Klarer's special relationship with the local Zulu tribesmen who allegedly prophesised that she would one day meet the Gods from the Sky. One gets the impression of a society in which everyone knows their place, from the Klarer family with their aristocratic English background to the Zulus who considered themselves superior to other black races. Mozart and tribal drums; the aristocrat and the Noble Savage.

Another sighting follows in these early pages, again accompanied with a ferocious storm, and portrayed in language redolent of some heroic, ancient saga. All this of course is leading up to the important close encounter on a hill evidently sacred to the local Zulus. There is, however, an interesting interlude at the De Havilland Experimental Flight Centre in England, with a mysterious meeting with 'The Chief' who, like the Zulu witch-doctor, marks out Klarer for important work in respect of the space aliens. During this interlude in England, we learn something very interesting about Elizabeth Klarer. Our subject has a great attachment for the land of her ancestors, and foresees a new danger for England more 'cunningly drawn' than Hitler's Germany, .. namely racial conflict. Furthermore, Klarer states her longing to find a heavenly haven away from the strife and turmoil of this Earth. This "Other Country" is a land of soft mountains "mantled with emerald sward", very different from the South African veldt and more like the England of her English ancestors, which has indeed an emerald sward also as she admits. But, as well as an inclement climate, the ever-present threat of enemies seeking to destroy her.

style. George Adamski was more of a journalist, whilst Klarer wrote as more of a romantic, if one accepts the use of such terms in such a context.

Adamski certainly describes himself as a philosopher and teacher, but his great adventure starts with his telescopes at Mount Palomar, California, and a series of fairly standard sightings which according to him were not sufficient to cause his conversion from a sceptic to a believer. That is until a conversation with military personnel changes his mind. Soon, more sightings follow until in 1949, we are told, two naval technicians ask Adamski to co-operate with them, with a view to obtaining photographs of alien spacecraft using astronomical equipment. By this time, Adamski accepts the notion of extra-terrestrial spacecraft, for, writing of this period, he describes his conversion through philosophical study, logical reasoning and personal observation, combined with his own experiences. Media reports of flying saucers and another indiscreet remark by one of his military friends add to the gradual build-up to the great event of November 1952. By 1950 Adamski is giving lectures and dealing with the press, evidently engendering some controversy over his alleged UFO photographs.



Left: The 'Venusian Scout craft' photographed by Adamski.
Above: 'Akon's spaceship.'

1952, the crucial year, brings Adamski's first meeting with Mr and Mrs A.C. Bailey and Dr. and Mrs George Hunt Williamson, which blossoms into a working relationship with a view to actually establishing contact with an alien intelligence. This starts seemingly in a very leisurely fashion, and the eager band is held up by a puncture on the very journey in which they hope to realise their ambitions. Adamski has a hunch that they should re-trace their steps and the others agree. When they finally decide to stop, they are confronted with an expanse of windy desert with little plant life and strange volcanic rocks, contrasting with Elizabeth Klarer's almost heroic landscape with the fury of the elements much in evidence.

Adamski's meeting with the alleged alien is also a contrast to Klarer's close encounter; it seems a very low-key affair.

It is difficult to form any sort of conclusion from either of these bizarre stories, but one thing seems certain, and that is both Adamski and Klarer seem to have had some sort of experience. Adamski's companions signed affidavits attesting to the appearance of the Venusian visitor and his scout craft. It makes one wonder if it is possible for a group of people with a burning desire to see something, to induce in themselves a state of group awareness, or to create a thought form which mirrors their desire so that the same becomes, temporarily, reality for them; so real that they will go to a Notary Public and sign an affidavit.

One senses a deep conflict within Elizabeth Klarer, from which arises this urge to seek a paradise away from racial strife and nuclear war. As far as South Africa is concerned Klarer does not dwell on the internal situation in that country, but her alien being, Akon, speaks of "vast hordes" of black people "swarming over the surface of the Earth", who have reached a dangerous cycle of evolution. Such a philosophy is without doubt very pleasing to the South African authorities the authoress gratefully acknowledges at the beginning of the book.

Reading the subject's words carefully, one seems to detect certain undercurrents in the South African saga, namely the fury of the elements previously mentioned. Clearly Klarer is not too happy in South Africa and does not feel exactly at home in England. Torn between two very different cultures: the one a repressive authoritarian state, and the other a democracy threatened by numerous forces, Klarer opts for her celestial paradise where even Soviet-made flying saucers cannot penetrate. As the book progresses Klarer meets up with her space alien, and the predicted sexual union takes place. Klarer states her urge to rid herself of the inhibitions of her English upbringing and from this one may glean a certain hint of sexual repression. Here is someone with whom she can mate without inhibition, and Akon's discourse on love and the Universe reinforce this concept, and justify it.

Far Right:
Elizabeth Klarer's
portrait of Akon.

Right: A sketch of
the Venusian visitor
made by Alice Wells
who was a witness to
the event.



Adamski's saga is not sexually orientated - he admires the beauty of the alien females he encounters during his experiences aboard their spacecraft, but conducts himself at all times with the utmost propriety as befitting the American puritan tradition. Also, it is interesting to compare Adamski's interpretation of the planet Venus (as seen in great detail from aboard an apparent Venusian spacecraft), with Elizabeth Klarer's account of the planet Meton (situated in the Proxima Centauri system) where she claims to have lived with Akon and his family for four months. The former is a sanitized New Age version of the American Dream, with labour-saving gadgets, no pollution, natural foods and of course peace and harmony. Meton has peace and harmony in abundance, but no cities. Merely beautiful homes of marble with luscious countryside and placid herbivores. Wholefood is here too, seemingly more whole than that on Venus, for we read of a meal of fresh, uncooked vegetables and other natural, pure food. Meton is seemingly an Alpha Centaurian Arcadia and Venus a cosmic shangri-la, and on both planets problems just cease to exist. George Adamski's aliens, denizens from Mars, Saturn and Venus, however admit that absolute perfection can never be achieved, but should always be aimed for, while Meton basks in endless celestial bliss. On a personal note, Klarer dwells extensively on the beautiful white horses to be found there roaming free, and she is certainly very fond of horses. (Not wishing to be excessively Freudian, but the horse can have a certain psychological (and sexual) significance). Reading through BEYOND THE LIGHT BARRIER a dreamlike quality is noticed, that contrasted with Adamski's

A personal assessment

Along with most other ufologists I have read Keel and Vallée and similar authors who interpret certain UFO events and the UFO scene in general in somewhat sinister terms. As an investigator for ASSAP, covering other anomalous phenomena and alleged paranormal events, I am bound to examine critically the theories of those who speculate that there may be some subtle force which, for reasons unknown, can temporarily alter one's sense of reality. Such theories abound, and one may read them and judge for oneself.

We probe the mysteries of the Universe with our radio telescopes and space-shots, but perhaps the greatest mysteries of all lie within the human mind. There must be a stimulus to trigger off these strange and disturbing altered states of consciousness, for even if both Elizabeth Klarer and George Adamski are frauds, it must take quite a person to live a complete lie, and assuming one can suddenly decide to invent a fantastic and unbelievable story that will bring ridicule upon oneself, there must be a reason for so doing. Scientists are not exactly sure how the human brain, of which so little is apparently used, interprets visual stimuli, and Klarer speaks of "an anti-universe beyond the light barrier of our limited line of vision", which makes this writer wonder if she is familiar with the quantum theory. Surely we cannot completely divorce certain aspects of ufology from studies of parapsychology and associated subjects for, as far as some alleged close encounter cases are concerned, the 'final frontier' may well be the human mind. After all, isn't there a saying "That which is above is like that which is below, but after another manner"?



PHIL HODGES

A brief look at a couple of new science-fiction paperbacks for those of you who are interested in SF. Although on the surface having no ufological significance, it strikes your editor that in some cases it is difficult to distinguish some of the UFO books available from those on the science-fiction shelf.

DRAGONQUEST by Anne McCaffrey. Paperback, CORGI, 325 pages, price £1.75. Another Dragon tale set on the planet Pern. In case Pern is new to you, then it should be explained that every two hundred years or so, parasitic mindless thread-like creatures migrate from the neighbouring Red Star, burning everything they touch and multiplying in Pern's soil. Pern's early colonists have bred a huge telepathic dragon which like it's mythical Earth ancestors can fly and breath flame. Squadrons of dragons and their Riders patrol the skies and burn the 'Threads' before they can reach the ground. This particular story revolves round the attempt by one Rider and his dragon to reach the Red Star and destroy the Thread at source. DRAGONQUEST is well written and up to her usual high standard.

UNDER HEAVEN'S BRIDGE by Ian Watson & Michael Bishop. CORGI paperback, 160 pages, £1.50. A strange alien race named the Kybers is found on the planet Onogoro. The Kybers are unique in that they are partly biological and partly machine, with the apparent ability to switch themselves off periodically. A multinational expedition is sent from Earth to Onogoro to study the Kybers and events quickly come to a head when it is discovered that the Kybers Sun is about to "go Nova", although the Kybers themselves are unconcerned. This is an enjoyable and fairly deep story which shows the possible difficulties that contact with alien beings might bring, should it ever happen.

UNDER INTELLIGENT CONTROL ?

JENNY RANGLES

I had intended merely to write a letter regarding Hilary Evans' mammoth "BOLs" article (resisting numerous tempting titles of varying shades of rudeness that had been suggested to me.) However, as is usual with such things, I found I had so much to say that I had better structure my thoughts more logically in the form of a complementary article, that hopefully adds to and does not reproduce what Hilary had to offer.

Firstly I must acknowledge Hilary's braveness. Not a few will be surprised (nay shocked) by his desertion from the ranks of hard-headed sceptic to the wilder shores of speculation. Of course, being brave is no guarantee of either success or inherent rightness, and whilst I feel he had much good sense and interesting provocation to offer, I remain far from convinced that living "globs" are floating around our atmospheric sea like invisible shoals of herring. But then again, who am I to say? When my mother had her only UFO close encounter last year (which I have tried, out of all proportion to its interest, to explain... just because) she swore absolutely that the thing it most resembled was a floating "fish finger". Perhaps the celestial architect is now going in for ready-packaging of the foodstuffs up there?! (1)

I am aware of the ideas that have been put forward in the past, by Constable and others. Hilary did not mention biologist Ivan T. Sanderson, for some reason, whereas his two books which touch this theme are actually better than any of the more esoteric that propose the concept. At least he is aware of its basic implausability. Indeed, I recall when I was at primary school, aged about 8, I used to see floating white, semi-transparent globules in the blue skies over Manchester. What are they?... I eagerly asked, full of childish inquisitiveness. "Oh well, you see," was the usual reply, followed by some waffle about dead matter in the eye which I did not understand - or more likely at 8 years old did not want to understand. I preferred to think I was seeing "sky-fish". I stopped seeing my "sky-fish" fairly soon. Perhaps they were "floaters" (the common name for dead-matter in the eye). But then I do still see this - and it lacks the romanticism I recall my fishies had. Maybe this is one circuitous reason why when some young UFO contactee, like Gaynor Sunderland, says she sees balls of light in the sky all the time, I am ore sympathetic than many might be. (2)

I compiled my notes on going through 'BOLs' but I will not reiterate them all. It would be too boring for the reader. Instead I will restrict myself to a few comments I feel are pertinent. Personally, I have long been convinced that ufology is 95% (and rising) about what I less glamourously term 'UAPs' (Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomena). BOLs is a nicer way of stating the problem, but as it assumes shape (and now, courtesy of Hilary, intelligence too) I am going to hedge my bets and stick with UAPs. UAPs I see as natural phenomena that are rare and presently unrecognised by science. They may be one phenomenon; they may be several. They probably have something to do with mysteries such as ball lightning. Just how much, I do not know. I think they have rather a lot to do with Fortean events like 'spontaneous human combustion'. I am sure they have associated radiation that can lead to severe physiological effects on witnesses who get too close. I even think I have a fair idea what kind of radiation this is. At times they can kill.

All of this I doubt that Hilary would quibble with. Where he and I most part company is on the question of intelligent control. To me the evidence is much less persuasive. I do not deny Hilary some score-points and I will keep my mind open on the option, just in case. But essentially I view my UAPs as phenomena indigenous to the atmosphere, whose intelligence is only purveyed upon them by the observer. As an example take Hilary's 'ghost lights' or 'Will-o-the-Wisp'. Folklore has it that these lights entice people into danger, ergo they do on purpose. But such lights occur in naturally dangerous places (such as swamps) by virtue of what causes them. So if someone sees one, and sets off to find out what it is the result is he gets led into a swamp (or whatever) and trouble. He comes back full of a tale about the "evil" light that took him astray, when he really took himself astray.

You may counter with instances where the BOL clearly does follow an individual. If you are out on your own in the country and a thunderstorm comes up, do you know the best advice? Lie flat, to minimise your chances of being struck by lightning. Lightning will likely pick out the highest point, which may be you. If you do not follow this advice and are struck, do we need to invest the lightning with intelligence for homing in on the only human for miles? Of course not. Likewise take note of how many BOLs seem to take special interest in cars on lonely roads when no other traffic is in sight. It occurs to me that cars have metal bodies and may attract an electromagnetic phenomenon. Have a look too at how many cases involve cars with radios on - therefore with aerials up. Aerials which are not dissimilar to lightning conductors in shape and function. The UFO appears and then there is a sudden "blinding light" which knocks out the car driver. Think about what this might be. I have.

My thoughts on UAPs are still embryonic, but I have set down a good deal of the basic research (step by step) in my forthcoming book for Robert Hale, UFO REALITY. This has ended up far bigger than I intended, or Hale's can accept, and so massive editing is needed before its Spring 1983 scheduled arrival. But I hope the cuts will not remove the essence of my argument.

That UAPs tend to congregate in certain areas is shown by such things as the research mentioned in the USA (Dr. Harley Rutledge's PROJECT IDENTIFICATION). But it comes as no surprise to ufologists who are aware of the 'Window Area' hypothesis. (See my series on WINDOW AREAS, in THE UNEXPLAINED, Orbis, 1982). Window areas are are areas where UAPs manifest more often. That may well be the top and bottom of it. Of course, there are probably reasons for this. Hilary touches on them, but misses the crucial point when he cites "Case C11" - from Bold Colliery, St. Helens. It is noted how repetitive "fireballs" have appeared there in the past. Hilary may not be aware that these sightings have continued such as in 1978 when two police officers on the M62 had a well-reported sighting of an "Inverted 'T' shape", brightly fluorescent, that appeared over Bold power station, then shot south to hover over Fiddlers Ferry Power Station (some miles south but still visible from the flat Mersey plains). Recently MIGAP have reported on a multi-witness observation of their own where they followed a bluish BOL from its location over Bold power station, along power lines to the south. (3) (4).

Two vital clues emerge from this. Firstly the powerline connection. This is perhaps the most common of all denominators in window areas BOLs. Secondly, the area is noted for land subsidence (as evidenced to anyone who drives the dangerous drive along this part of the M62 - or "big dipper" as it is known). Landslips, powerlines and power stations are taking us in the direction of work already done by Persinger and Lafrenière and more recently, Brady in the USA and Canada. They have studied the 'piezo-electric' effect, an induced electric current in the atmosphere caused by resonance in certain rocks when placed under stress. Electrical sources (or hunks of metal) can act as focal points. There are others. Recently this effect has been duplicated in the laboratory, just as Hilary requests.

My writing project this year has been THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY. This will be published as a Granada paperback in Summer 1983. I am not going to give away its conclusions (Granada would never forgive me), but it does offer some solace for Hilary's ideas. Essentially it studies the Pennine "window area" in a historical sense, looking at why people think what they do about it, and pointing out the various clues towards a really plausible hypothesis as we go along. It is rather like one of those Sherlock Holmes mysteries where you can solve the crime as you read. As such it was great fun to write.

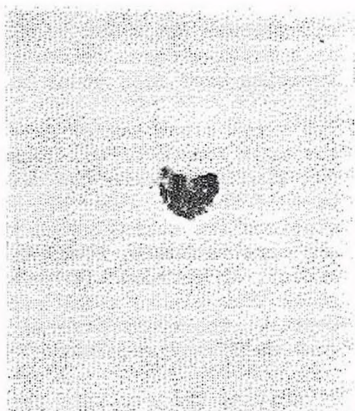
I want to close by discussing a case which has not been published anywhere to my knowledge. Its witnesses are Terry and Pamela Cox and they have asked me to publish it, after much soul-searching when they were very unsure that they ought to do so. Terry is a UFO investigator who is probably best known for his work on the Newmill, Cornwall BOLs case... one which I am surprised Hilary did not mention as it is a classic UAP. There is a full report in FSR. (5) But basically a couple renovating an old post office in this little village has a close confrontation with a floating green BOL. Subsequently they became very ill, both being admitted to hospital with symptoms that cleared up on

their own, leaving the doctors baffled. Terry and his wife live in a remote location at Redmoor, near Bodmin, and their garden looks out over much open land. Terry has spent much of his recent time experimenting with infra-red photography trying to capture BOLs, which like Hilary he believes to exist, and which like Constable he thinks can be made visible on infra-red film. I have to admit he has produced some intriguing results. I have seen many of his resultant images, (always unseen by the naked eye), and have tried to find some reference in literature on infra-red film to some defect that could create them. Jacques Vallée, in MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION, rather unhelpfully says that he once took such images seriously until he found out what they were. But he offers no reference to what he supposedly found out. However, the point remains that Terry Cox has photographed many things not unlike my childhood "sky-fish" in the air over the Cornish moors.

On Saturday November 15th 1980, Terry was ill and the doctor called. He gave him a strong sedative and sent Terry to bed. By 1.00 am on the 16th Terry was deep asleep but Pamela could not rest. Her arms were entwined with her husband's when she noticed a shaft of light stretching from her shoulder to her fingertips. It was clear white but made the veins in her arms stand out (not apparently normal for her). She half mused that it came from the neighbour's farm lane, but then it withdrew "like a solid shaft... (or spear)... it did not just go out". Ten minutes later it returned, slowly, first lighting her shoulder, then her arm, and then her fingers. Turning to the window she saw an incandescent ball of flamingo red. It shimmered in a pattern "rather like the crystal structure of a snowflake under the microscope". She raised Terry groggily from his drug-induced sleep. When Pamela had first seen it, it was filling half the window frame, so close was it. As Terry sat up he could see it, exactly as Pamela described it, down to the snowflake structure, but it was receding. It pulled back across the fields, lighting up the hedges below as it did so, shrinking to a tiny ball. Then the shaft of light followed it, also lighting up the ground below. Finally the whole thing shrunk into nothingness. Pamela guessed the sighting had lasted about 1½ minutes. When she looked at the time immediately afterwards, it was 1.20 am.

Much more information has been supplied to me by the witnesses, including a seemingly co-operative sighting 70 days earlier by witnesses at Lostwithiel. Pamela naturally regards it as a very personal experience (hence the initial reluctance to report it). The double appearance, and the use of a lightbeam directed at her, suggests (not surprisingly) that it was intelligent. However, she regards it as beneficial and kindly. For after the encounter her arthritis (which she suffered badly from in her arms) was much better. Psychic healing care of a UFO? I am not laughing at such a possibility.

In other words, whilst I might have seemed to be criticising Hilary and dismissing all his arguments, I am not. Personally I think unintelligent UAPs are responsible for practically all BOLs... Practically all, and not all? I know Terry and Pamela well enough to take their word for what they saw. And with cases such as this who can afford to be complacent? Not I.

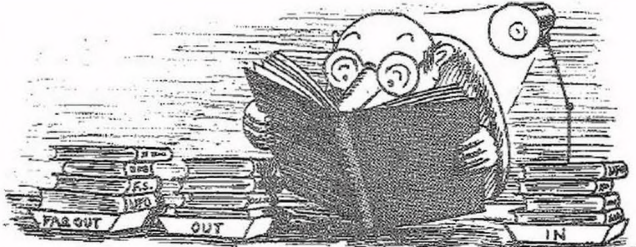


One of Terry Cox's Infra-red Sky-fish. Taken in August 1980.

- 1: NORTHERN UFO NEWS, February 1982, page 4.
- 2: ALIEN CONTACT. Randles, J. & Whetnall, P. Spearman, 1982. Coronet p/b Feb. 1983.
- 3: FSR Vol 23, No 6. 1978. Pages 3 - 6.
- 4: NORTHERN UFO NEWS August 1981, page 6.
- 5: FSR Vol 24, No 1. 1978. Pages 28 - 30.

BOOK

REVIEWS



THE MEIER INCIDENT: THE MOST INFAMOUS HOAX IN UFOLOGY, by Kal K. Korff (with editorial assistance of William L. Moore), 124 pages, softbound, large format with illustrations. Price \$7.00 postpaid from William L. Moore Publications & Research, P.O. Box 1845, Prescott, AZ 86302, U.S.A. In March 1981, THE PROBE REPORT reviewed a new book that had just become available entitled UFO... CONTACT FROM THE PLEIADES which was a large format hardcover glossy book, detailing an alleged contact with otherworldly beings by a Swiss farmer, that started in 1975. The review concluded that this case was either a very clever hoax or the biggest ever breakthrough in history. The former was always suspected and now this has been shown exceptionally well by Korff in this excellent exposé of the Meier case. The Meier story was always of interest because of the photographic evidence that supported his claims of over 130 contacts with the aliens, and these photographs had allegedly passed computer analyses making the case more intriguing. Ever since Eduard "Billy" Meier made his claims, there have been many articles published in several journals worldwide both supporting and damning the case, so most people involved in ufology have at least heard of it. But this is the first time that all the evidence against Meier, gathered by Korff has been presented inside one cover. It makes enlightening reading and reveals all realms of trickery that was employed in manufacturing the story and supporting evidence, and also the trickery that has since been employed by Meier's supporters to allow themselves to still come up smelling of roses despite the overwhelming evidence that now shows this case up for what it really is. The errors and contradictions made by Meier's supporters and the publishers of the book, GENESIS III are incredible howlers and it seems remarkable how publishers and the 'investigators' of the case could have been so gullible. Yet, it is just another reflection of the publishing world as it is today that serious sensible works often have to be published privately because of their non-commercial value. Whilst the outrageous material will attract sales and publishers come diving in with money, and later defend their dollars with lies. Therefore, fewer people are bound to read THE MOST INFAMOUS HOAX IN UFOLOGY creating an imbalance that can never be rectified unless such works are given due publicity. Korff's presentation is not faultless, and the book contains grammatical errors, but this doesn't distract the reader from the overall message that it contains. The book is illustrated with artist's impressions of how the Meier photographs could well have been faked, and GSW computer analyses are also reproduced showing a fine wire which suspended the models. It is also beneficial if the reader can obtain a copy of Meier's book (although by no means is this an advert for it!) so the artist's impressions can be compared with the (retouched) originals, and after reading Korff's book, you can then see things in a different perspective. I never noticed before that the panoramic photographs on pages 38/39 and 48/49 are not panoramic views, but cleverly contrived individual photographs cut to fit together, and once this is known, it is easy to see how it is done. I hope THE MEIER INCIDENT: THE MOST INFAMOUS HOAX IN UFOLOGY is widely circulated because the message conveyed is important and should be read by every serious ufologist. I.M.

William L. Moore has also published several other documents on ufological topics, and included in this collection are two of note; THE ROSWELL INVESTIGATION - NEW EVIDENCE, NEW CONCLUSIONS (52 pages, large format, softbound, \$6.00 postpaid from above address) which combines two papers, the first of which is THE ROSWELL INCIDENT: UPDATE AND CONCLUSIONS by Moore, and THE ROSWELL INCIDENT: BEGINNING OF THE COSMIC WATERGATE by Moore and Stanton T. Friedman. The first paper was presented at the May 1981 APRO Conference and is an offering of more suggestive evidence that a flying saucer did crash in Roswell in July of 1947 and that the remains and the bodies of the eight aliens are still somewhere under cover courtesy of the U.S. Government. It is really a case of you either believe it or you don't and this way you can take the evidence as further support, or if the latter applies, you can dismiss it together with the book by Berlitz and Moore. The second paper was put forward at the June 1981 MUFON Symposium and in this Friedman attempts to put back some of the credibility that was lost when people saw

Charles Berlitz's name boldly printed on the cover, and also covers miriads of topics that are in some way connected with the Roswell case. An extremely interesting paper with plenty of names and dates put forward backing claims of crashed saucers. Both papers are necessary items for collectors on this topic. I.M.

The second book reviewed is THE ROSWELL INVESTIGATION: NEW EVIDENCE IN THE SEARCH FOR A CRASHED UFO by Moore. This was a 1982 MUFON Symposium paper reproduced in a softbound format, totalling 22 pages, which costs \$4.00 postpaid. It is an update on the continuing investigation into the crashed saucer/retrieval and is useful if you again believe that such things occurred - frankly this reviewer doesn't, but such papers are vital to those researching such rumours. William Moore must be credited for his unceasing efforts to finally uncover indisputable proof, but he will need more than this to convince the sceptics. I will gladly eat my words if he succeeds. I.M.

OTHER WORLDS - Space, Superspace and the Quantum Universe by Paul Davies. ABACUS, paperback, illustrated with diagrams, 207 pages, price £2.50. OTHER WORLDS is a book which is not directly related to ufology but which nevertheless has, I feel, considerable relevance for the investigator. Researching anomalous phenomena can be both frustrating and rewarding - frustrating in that many alleged paranormal events are so bizarre that the investigator is sometimes tempted to paraphrase Pontius Pilate and ask "What is Reality?". This book asks that very question and its answers leave one's head spinning. The Quantum Theory was developed between 1900 and 1930, and is, as the book states, still the subject of heated controversy in scientific circles. This is not surprising for the theory, if one accepts it, 'leads to the conclusion that the world of our experience - the universe we perceive - is not the only universe'. Billions of other universes exist, some like our own and others, to quote the book, "wildly different". One can also argue, if one wishes, that these other universes are not real at all but only "contenders for reality". Many of the concepts put forward in this book are mind-boggling in the extreme, as the last example shows and take quite a bit of digesting. Davies has done his best to present the quantum theory in the simplest possible terms for the ordinary reader, but even so the book is heavy going. In fairness to the author, he has had a mammoth task and has done his best to give the average person an insight into this revolutionary theory which completely changes our view of the universe. As far as the ufologist is concerned, I do not think that the quantum theory can be ignored, for the serious investigator has a duty to examine every possibility which includes parallel worlds, parallel universes and superspace. Naturally, I am not trying to suggest that the UFO phenomenon could be related to the concepts expressed in OTHER WORLDS but I do feel that the subject is worthy of study, and would therefore recommend it not only to every serious investigator, but to every thinking person. Geoff Bird.

THE UFO-ANTHROPOID CATALOGUE by Mark Moravec. Published by the Australian Centre for UFO Studies (ACUFOS), reference D5. 40 pages, price \$4 Aust. from ACUFOS, P.O. Box, Gosford, New South Wales 2250, Australia. This large format softbound catalogue of reports attempts to put together all cases known to the author that possibly linked UFO sightings or events with giant ape-like creatures, for example the Yeti, but in this case given the name of anthropoids. The reports have been categorised in three sections, 1) simultaneous UFO and anthropoid events, 2) UFO/anthropoid events occurring over a period of time and 3) no UFO event, but anthropoid event accompanied by UFO characteristics. 72 reports are featured, giving summaries of the cases and the sources of information allowing further checking to be made. Unfortunately, from the tables provided, one can see that 15 cases, roughly 20% of the total, feature type 1 class leaving the vast majority that only have a tenuous link with UFOs. However, this catalogue will prove useful for those interested in CE3 cases and those who study bigfoot and other such cases, although may not provide real evidence for a link between the two. Mark Moravec is totally aware of the problems involved in such a project and brings this to the attention of the reader in his fine introduction. I.M.

PUFORG (Plymouth UFO Research Group) have published a professional, glossy, type-set booklet entitled UFO's OVER PLYMOUTH which was financed by an anonymous benefactor who became impressed at a fascinating case on PUFORG's books. What an opportunity for a local group to show what they are made of ... and they blew it. It is excellent reading

(During November 1981, Colin Birch of the Wessex UFO Investigation Research Group paid a visit to the U.S.A., and these travels took him to Florida where he was fortunate enough to witness the second launch of NASA's SPACE SHUTTLE. Following on from that experience, Colin decided to infiltrate NASA itself and find out some first-hand information on the staff reaction to UFOs and the alleged 'astronaut sightings' that so many authors have written about. The following text is printed in full as supplied by Colin, and is published here for interest only. Its ufological significance is probably very little, as no-one at NASA would likely reveal every iota of information that has been accumulated over the years, whether pro or anti the existence of UFOs. Nevertheless, Colin has taken the time and effort to prepare this article, and it doesn't do any harm to publish items of a light nature.)

With part of my mission completed, I joined the queue outside NASA's Kennedy Space Centre with the hope I might get a few answers to the questions I had posed myself the night before. Inside I grabbed at handfuls of leaflets as I gazed amongst the monsters that had made history way back in the sixties. Everything was there: the Apollo module, the VAB* and the masses of items used on the various missions. I made my way to the enquiries desk where I was greeted by a smart young official in NASA uniform. I came straight to the point, explaining I was from England (which upon reflection must have seemed pretty obvious) and he smiled broadly when I mentioned UFOs as if he had heard it all a thousand times before. It was clear to me that he wasn't going to commit himself on the subject and suggested I contact one of the guides on site. I spoke to several staff and did get a reaction of sorts, however I should point out that these people were programmed into doing a good public relations job. Nevertheless, I can give you all the facts and reactions as I received them.

The following questions were asked by myself to a cross-section of available NASA staff, ie guides, duty officers, tour guides and information-desk clerks.

- CB: Having just spent an enjoyable day here at NASA, could you please tell me if NASA with its many departments, has one which deals with UFOs exclusively?
- N: We have many specialist sections within NASA, but if you mean by UFO, an Unidentified flying object, no we do not. This would be the task of the United States Air Force, as a UFO would be a security risk as such, and the Air Force deals with all flying security matters.
- CB: What is NASA's role exactly?
- N: The National Aeronautics and Space Act 1958 clearly states, "That Congress hereby declares that it is the policy of the United States that activities in space be devoted to peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind." NASA is here to fulfill this promise.
- CB: You have a resident think tank here? Could you please tell me if NASA believes there is life as we know it somewhere out there in space?
- N: Yes, we do believe that some form of life exists out there. The Solar System has all the correct ingredients to support life, in fact samples collected from meteor debris indicate single-cell life did once exist in space.
- CB: Is this why a couple of your deep-space probes have logos etched on the outside of them, and contain maps and messages within the craft?
- N: Yes. As our deep-space probes will stay in space for many years, it is hoped that someone out there will be able to see that we are making positive steps to reach them.
- CB: Many of the NASA photographs I have seen would seem to indicate that UFOs are present in space. Also, what comments have you to make on the famous ESSA 7 photo showing a dark hollow ring where the North Pole should be?

- N: Photography in space is a difficult problem to overcome. Available light, movement, pressure; all cause immense problems. The ESSA 7 pictures were built up from a collection of computer pictures, hence the black hole shown at the top. ** They were taken at different angles and pieced up as in an orange segment. The blobs and lights seen in the many Apollo missions are due to nothing more than reflections and lens problems. We try to release all our pictures untouched where possible.
- CB: George Leonard, who authored "Someone Else is on Our Moon" (W.H. Allen, London 1977 & Sphere paperback 1978) is of the opinion that NASA is covering up a great deal of information concerning especially the crater 'Tycho'. He claims that Apollo astronauts used a coded jargon in some of their radio transmissions back to Earth, and that because aliens are mining the Moon with huge machines, NASA and the USSR are not landing on the Moon at present.
- N: Yeah, a lotta guys are making a lotta money over supposed Moon creatures. The Moon is dead. We have no plans for a manned Moon landing in the near future. One, because it is too expensive, and two, our SST programme is our major goal at present. And this has involved a major capital outlay.
- CB: If the Moon is dead as you say, why do we still get reports of lights or TLP (Transient Lunar Phenomenon) ?
- N: The TLP or lights you speak of are caused by dust clouds lifted from the surface by gas pockets within the Moon's crust. We also believe that there could be giant electrical storms close to the surface.
- CB: What do you think the future holds for space travel in, say, the next century? For instance, to travel further, do you think we might have an atomic power plant for rockets of the future? Will we be going to the Moon instead of the coast for holidays? Will man ever live on another planet or the Moon, and is there even a future in space exploration when we need to do so much for mankind right here on Earth?
- N: Our hopes for the next generation is to develop the Shuttle as the very concept is cheaper, safer and requires less effort to succeed. We are always looking into the future, but the question of atomic fuel is far in the future. I think there would be an outcry if we started on atomic rockets just now. The SST will be carrying several civilians within the next couple of years. You could well be booking a flight in space by the year 2000 at your local Pan-Am desk.

I would just like to mention that of the 7 NASA staff I spoke to, only one of them believed that UFOs exist. There were a lot of questions I forgot to ask through sheer excitement, but I hope what I did ask provided something of interest.

* VAB. Vehicle Assembly Building.

** This picture was published by Panther/Granada paperbacks in Brinsley Le Poer Trench's "Secret of the Ages" book. First published by Souvenir Press in 1974.

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BOOKS

but totally lacks any references to investigation of the cases recorded. There is plenty of enthusiasm in the writing, but enthusiasm alone does nothing to aid real UFO research, which is what PUFORG call themselves. They do hard work in that area, and they seem to have a fair number of high and medium definition cases on record, but if only these cases had full investigation reports to back them up. Who knows, thorough investigation might have solved some of them, if not all. I appreciate that the book is being reviewed here, and that such soundings-off are not required, but it seems to me that an opportunity has gone begging, and all we have here in print is a collection of meaningless mish-mash. PUFORG have the ability to produce good material, and I must echo Marty Moffatt's comments in SIGNALS when he refers to present UFO reports. The book looks very nice though, and the quality printing and obvious hard work still makes it worth the 90p asked... but if only... Anyway, write to PUFORG, P.O. Box 75, Plymouth I.M.



RE-OPENING THE WARMINSTER CASEBOOK

INTRODUCTION IAN MRZYGLOD

Space does not facilitate the inclusion of a full article in this new series, but the room available offers a fine opportunity to introduce "RE-OPENING THE WARMINSTER CASEBOOK" properly. This series was planned some time ago, but the idea was dropped when it was decided to collate all the material for a special one-off supplement, much akin to the UFO/IFO booklet that was recently produced. Finances, unfortunately, will never allow such a publication to see print, purely because works of that nature do not attract enough public interest to make it pay. Something that shows a methodical and critical summary of Warminster's alleged UFO happenings is not as glamorous a publication as something that enhances the romanticism and glory of the Wiltshire town's celestial sky-chariots. Therefore, we would be on to a loser from the start, and although we may be producing a useful analysis of the whole story, the cost to the individuals who would have to finance it would not justify the means. So, the series has been given a new lease of life and once again has been rescheduled to appear in this journal on a sporadic basis.

What is it all about? Operating in Wiltshire has meant that PROBE has always had the name of Warminster thrust towards us, which in some cases has been done as a derisory action and in others it is just an innocent remark made in ignorance. Warminster earned a following of cultist 'UFO' groups in the latter 1960s and these movements brought doubt and insincerity into ufology. The more respectable UFO groups/Journals then ignored the reported happenings at Warminster, treating them quite rightly as peripheral to the real ufology and dismissed all the claims as only the result of hoaxing and blind faith in army flares. An understandable reaction, but it was only those groups 'in the know' who felt this way. The Warminster legend was still thriving amongst the uninformed and I hasten to add that the PROBE team, in different guises, were a part of that flock of regular visitors who believed that something real and important was going on there.

Therefore it is not surprising that the vast majority of people interested in ufology refer to Warminster as a significant chapter to the story. The Wiltshire town is still written about in newspapers and many UFO books carry tales of great happenings in and around the famous hilltops, but very little has ever seen print to set the record straight. Much of what has been accepted as true regarding UFOs at Warminster is at best grossly exaggerated and at worst a complete pack of lies, and that is why your editor feels an obligation to present the other half of the coin.

As a result of some re-investigation work that has been carried out recently, plus some general enquiries, an entirely different story has begun to emerge from underneath all the flowery camouflage of tales of mind-blowing events that materialised mainly from the pen of resident author/reporter Arthur Shuttlewood. This series intends to open to all some of the activities that went on there during Warminster's peak period, uncovering some facts that weren't even known by those groups 'in the know'.

The background to the photographs that illustrated Shuttlewood's earlier books is examined, as well as a recent photographic case that allegedly showed three UFOs in one still frame as definite proof of Warminster's UFO phenomenon. Testimony to the value of these photographs appeared in at least two UFO journals but nothing was heard from the exponent after that. All three photographs will be published and discussed in a forthcoming issue, with the interesting results. The UFO 'cult' societies and their activities will be analysed, with the feature looking at what they were really up to and why they vanished. Famous sightings will also be scrutinised and alternative answers will be put forward to explain them.

RE-OPENING THE WARMINSTER CASEBOOK is going to start with enthusiasm and PROBE hopes that although the content in some cases will be destructive, the emphasis will be placed on providing an instructive look at what really happened. The series will not stoop to the levels of a Sunday newspaper scandal - rest assured - but it might, we hope, kill off Warminster's UFOs for good.



Vol 1, No 1.



Vol 1, No 2.



Vol 1, No 3.



Vol 1, No 4.



Vol 2, No 1.



Vol 2, No 2.



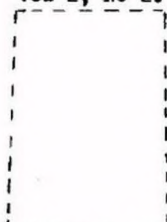
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BACK

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Also available is the SCUFORI/PROBE joint publication -

UFO/IFO: A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

Priced at 80p plus 20p postage and packing (Overseas please remit by International Money Order). From, SCUFORI, 29 Lethbridge Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, ENGLAND.